

The Crucible, Act II by Arthur Miller
Vocabulary Warm-up Word Lists

Study these words from the selection. Then, complete the activities.

Word List A

calamity [kuh LAM uh tee] *n.* disaster

The loss of their house in a fire was a calamity.

compensate [KAHM pen sayt] *v.* to make up for

The insurance company offered to compensate Ronda for her loss.

deceit [dee SEET] *n.* lying; deception

Spies make deceit a way of life.

falter [FOL tuhr] *v.* to hesitate

Artie did not falter but scored almost as soon as he was put in the game.

indignant [in DIG nuhnt] *adj.* angry; outraged

Because they were so rude to us at the party, we felt highly indignant.

magistrate [MAJ is trayt] *n.* official judge

In the ancient Roman Republic, a consul was the highest-ranking magistrate.

resentful [ree ZENT fuhl] *adj.* offended; displeased

Paula has some irritating qualities, but try not to feel too resentful of her.

sarcasm [SAHR kazm] *n.* taunting or cutting remarks

Sarcasm can cause much damage because it hurts other people's feelings.

Word List B

begrudge [bee GRUJ] *v.* to feel ill will toward another person

We do not begrudge them their victory; after all, they were the best team.

civily [SIV uhl ee] *adv.* politely

Although Mr. Bly had a reputation for being rude, he treated us civily.

evasively [ee VAY siv lee] *adv.* in a tricky way; not straightforwardly

Tim answered us so evasively that we felt sure he was hiding something.

flailing [FLAYL ing] *v.* waving awkwardly

When the lifeguard saw Anita flailing in the surf, he ran to help her.

flinch [FLINCH] *v.* to shrink back; recoil

The sudden loud noise of a backfire made us flinch.

ineptly [in EPT lee] *adv.* awkwardly; incapably; in a clumsy fashion

The new waiter said he had experience, but he handled the dishes ineptly.

weighty [WAYT ee] *adj.* important; solemn

Only the most weighty cases reach the Supreme Court.

wily [WY lee] *adj.* cunning; ingenious

In Native American lore, the figure of Coyote is famous for his wily tricks.